

AMENDMENT OF THE CLAIMS

Please cancel Claims 1-30 and 110-114 without prejudice or disclaimer, and add new claims 120- as follows:

Claims 1-119 (canceled)

Claims 120 (new): An automatically-activated bar code symbol reading device comprising:

(1) a hand-supportable housing having a light transmission aperture wherethrough visible light can exit and enter said hand-supportable housing;

(2) a laser scanning bar code symbol reading engine, disposed within said hand supportable housing, that can be selectively operated in one of first and second scanning modes,

wherein during said first scanning mode, said laser scanning bar code symbol reading engine projects an omni-directional laser scanning pattern through said light transmission aperture, for automatically reading one or more bar code symbols on an object during a bar code symbol reading cycle, and generating a new symbol character data string in response to each bar code symbol read thereby, and

wherein during said second scanning mode, said laser scanning bar code symbol reading engine projects a single line scanning pattern through said light transmission aperture, for automatically and repeatedly reading one or more bar code symbols on an object during a bar code symbol reading cycle, and generating a new symbol character data string in response to each bar code symbol read thereby;

(3) a data transmission subsystem, disposed in said hand-supportable housing, for transmitting, when activated, a selected one of said produced symbol character data strings to a host system operably connected to said automatically-activated bar code symbol reading device;

(4) a manually-activatable data transmission switch, integrated with said hand-supportable housing, for generating a data transmission control activation signal in response to the activation of said manually-activatable data transmission switch within said predetermined time period; and

(5) a system controller for controlling said data transmission subsystem during said first and second scanning modes of operations,

wherein during said first scanning mode, the symbol character data string, produced at substantially the same time when said data transmission control activation signal is generated, is transmitted to said host system, and

wherein during said second scanning mode, the symbol character data string, produced at substantially the same time when said data transmission control activation signal is generated, is transmitted to said host system.

Claim 121 (new): The bar code symbol reading device of claim 120, wherein said laser scanning bar code reading engine further comprises:

a bar code symbol presence detector in said hand-supportable housing for processing scan data so as to detect the presence of said bar code symbol on said object and to automatically generate a first control signal in response to the detection of said bar code symbol; and

decode processor in said hand-supportable housing for processing scan data so as to decode said bar code symbol on said object and for automatically producing symbol character data representative of said decoded bar code symbol, and automatically generating a second control signal indicative of the production of said symbol character data.

Claim 122 (new): The bar code symbol reading device of claim 120, wherein said bar code symbol presence detector detects said bar code symbol by detecting first and second envelope borders of said bar code symbol.

Claim 123 (new): The bar code symbol reading device of claim 120, wherein said laser scanning bar code symbol reading engine comprises object detection means in said hand-supportable housing, for detecting said object in at least a portion of an object detection field defined relative to said housing and automatically generating a third control signal indicative of the detection of said object in at least a portion of said object detection field.

Claim 124 (new): The bar code symbol reading device of claim 123, wherein said object detection means comprises:

a signal transmitting means for transmitting a signal towards said object in said object detection field, and

a signal receiving means for receiving said transmitted signal reflected off said object in at least a portion of said object detection field, and automatically generating said third control signal indicative of the detection of said object in at least a portion of said object detection field.

Claim 125 (new): The bar code symbol reading device of claim 124, wherein said signal transmitting means comprises an infra-red light source for transmitting a pulsed infra-red light signal, and wherein said signal receiving means comprises an infra-red light detector disposed in said hand-supportable housing.

Claim 126 (new): The bar code symbol reading device of claim 124, wherein said signal transmitting means comprises a laser diode for transmitting a pulsed laser signal, and wherein said signal receiving means comprises a photodetector disposed in said hand-supportable housing.